

Appl. No. 10/630,453

Amdt. dated February 17, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 17, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn). A method of practicing nasal hygiene comprising the steps of applying to a person's nostril a non-irritating hygienic composition consisting essentially of the product of compounding under homogenizing conditions water, 0.01% to 5% by weight, as chlorine dioxide, of a source of chlorine dioxide; 0.01% to 3% by weight of at least one olfactory stimulant; 0 to 5% by weight of at least one fixative compound less volatile than the olfactory stimulant; 0.1 to 2.5% by weight of at least one inorganic salt selected from the group consisting of alkali metal chloride, alkali metal bicarbonate, and alkali metal chlorate; and 0.0002 to 0.006 % (as aluminum) by weight of at least one water soluble aluminum compound, provided that the total concentration of inorganic salt is in the range from 0.6% by weight to 2.5% by weight,

holding the composition within the nostril for a hygienic holding period,

and discharging the composition from the treated nostril.

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Claim 2 (withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the quantity of the hygienic composition applied to a nostril is in the range of 0.3 milliliters to 3 milliliters.

Claim 3 (withdrawn). The method of claim 1, wherein the holding period is in the range from ten seconds to ten minutes.

Claim 4 (currently amended). A non-irritating hygienic composition consisting essentially of the product of compounding under homogenizing conditions water, 0.01% to 5% by weight, as chlorine dioxide, of a source of chlorine dioxide; 0.01% to 3% by weight of at least one olfactory stimulant, 0 to 5% by weight of at least one fixative compound less volatile than the olfactory stimulant, 0.1 to 2.5% by weight of at least one inorganic salt selected from the group consisting of alkali metal chloride, alkali metal bicarbonate, and alkali metal chlorate; and 0.0002 to 0.006 % (as aluminum) by weight of at least one water soluble aluminum compound, provided that the total concentration of inorganic salt is in the range from 0.6% by weight to 2.5% by weight.

Claim 5 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4 having a pH in the range from 6 to 9.

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Claim 6 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the concentration of chlorine dioxide source, as chlorine dioxide, is in the range of 0.1% to 2% by weight.

Claim 7 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the concentration of olfactory stimulant is in the range of 0.05 to 1% by weight.

Claim 8 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein at least two inorganic salts are present.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the concentration of water soluble aluminum compound is in the range of 0.0005% to 0.005% by weight.

Claim 11 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the source of chlorine dioxide comprises alkali metal chlorite.

Claim 12 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the source of chlorine dioxide is a combination of alkali metal chlorite and chlorine dioxide.

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Claim 13 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the olfactory stimulant is selected from the group consisting of cycloaliphatic alcohols, cycloaliphatic ketones, non-phenolic aromatic hydroxyl compounds, phenols having at least nine carbon atoms, volatile oils derived from plant materials, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 14 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, including 0.05% to 1% by weight of a fixative compound selected from the group consisting of oil of sweet birch, oil of spearmint, oil of pine, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the water soluble aluminum compound is potassium aluminum sulfate.

Claim 16 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the inorganic salt is sodium bicarbonate.

Claim 17 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, wherein the inorganic salt is potassium chlorate.

Claim 18 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4, additionally comprising an amount not exceeding 0.5% by weight

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of an adjuvant selected from the group consisting of
colorants, surfactants, and chelating agents.

Claim 19 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4,
wherein chlorine dioxide can be detected.

Claim 20 (original). The hygienic composition of claim 4,
wherein chlorine dioxide cannot be detected.